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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/320,299	05/26/99	WHITCOMB	J 56534-B/JPW

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HM22/0430

EXAMINER

PARKIN, J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1648

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DATE MAILED: 04/30/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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In response to a telephonic inquiry from Chris Ries on April 12, 2001 regarding the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed March 15, 2001, a review of Applicant's Amendment filed March 6, 2001 was made. As pointed out by Mr. Ries, the March 6 Amendment did not amend any of the pending claims. Instead, the Amendment only added new claims. Accordingly, the March 15 Notice is erroneous and is hereby VACATED. No further response by Applicant is required to the March 15 Notice.

However, a review of the March 6 Amendment reveals that it is non-compliant with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires that new claims be numbered starting as the next number from that previously presented. In the instant file, Applicant previously had submitted claims ending with claim 72. Therefore, newly added claims 32-38 have been renumbered in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 as new claims 73-79. All future communications must refer to this new numbering.

This file is being returned to the examiner for action on the merits of the March 6, 2001 Amendment.

James C. Housel
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1648

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